

SOLAS Life Jackets when used commercially are required to carry an illumination or signaling device, a preferred embodiment of such is shown in figure 37 demonstrates how the combined ballast and signaling means is divided into a long arm that extends towards the rear of the wearer. At the extreme end of the long arm is located the highest density ballast so that when the combined ballast and signaling device swings about attachment means 16b that pivots freely through mounting means 91b, the ballasted end is moved laterally to the point furthest from the axis of rotation. Alternatively, when the victim is floating face up, the long arm of the ballast end swings the device back adjacent the lateral edge of the PFD which now positions the short buoyant arm straight up so that the illumination means 2b is out of the water and visible from 360° degrees. If the victim enters the water face down or is rolled over onto their face by a wave, the long arm of the device swings out approximately 90° degrees moving the ballast to its optimal position of approximately 90° degrees to the victim's axis of rotation. In this position, the ballast is maximally effective at applying torque to the victim and their PFD in order to rotate their face out of the water. As the long arm of the ballasted end of the device approaches 90° degrees the short buoyant arm is simultaneously moved medially where the impact of the buoyancy is reduced to its minimum in terms of opposing active self rescue. The short buoyant arm of the combined ballast and signaling device preferably acts as a 90° degree stop arresting the swing from perpendicular to horizontal relative to the ventral face of the PFD. In the stop position, the short buoyant arm of the device rests against the face of the PFD. ~~Figure 90 shows a preferred embodiment where the short arm buoyancy is reduced to its~~

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~~practical minimum thereby reducing the need for offsetting ballast. Once the victim is rolled over into a face up position, the ballast swings back in reducing the ballast's distance from the victim's axis of rotation thereby reducing the ballast's impact or lowering the corner of the mouth of the victim towards the water (i.e. thereby maintaining as much freeboard as possible).~~

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Figure 38 also illustrates a secure and simple mounting means for a combined ballast and appliance. Preferably, a sewable plastic piping 92b is integrated into the seam of the PFD spaced to accommodate the appliance's hinge means 91b. The section of tubing can be die cut to be removed leaving the sewable flange so that the space for the appliance can be consistently close for optimal support yet sufficient to allow easy assembly. Hinge pin 93b serves multiple functions; it secures combined ballast and signaling device 1b through the sleeve means integrated into the PFD 92b in a secure but preferably releasable manner. It rigidifies the cervical-ventral joint. The placement of multiple sewn in sleeves 92b which contain their hinge pin 93b, with or without a combined ballast and appliance device, can supply rigidification of the cervical-ventral joint complementing PFD turning due to ballast(s) at other locations. Furthermore, when sleeve means 92b is sewn onto the oversized foam layer 63b it further advances the transfer of the positional energy of the ballast into rotation of the PFD/victim reducing the amount of ballast required for reliable active self rescue.

PFD WITH ATTACHED COMBINED BALLAST AND SIGNALING PARTS LIST (FIGURES 20 through 38)

- 1b Combined ballast and signaling means
- 2b Continuous or stroboscopic illuminating means

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- 81b 90 degree Range of Motion Stop
- 82b Internal Ballast Plate
- 83b Tubular liner guide
- 84b Ballast Attachment cover
- 85b Locking Attachment means for mobile swing ballast and lever arm
- 86b Quick Release attachment means for ballast
- 87b Ballast means
- 88b Inner Locking Jaw
- 90b Buoyant arm of device
- 91b Hinge Pivot means of appliance
- 92b Sleeve means integrated into PFD
- 93b Hinge pin means
- 94b Hinge pin retainer means
- 95b Reduced Volume Buoyant Arm
- 96b Die cut sewable plastic sleeve means
- ~~100b Enhanced non-ballasted ventral component~~
- 101b Relatively diminished ballasted ventral component

Some of the advantages achieved with and/or features of one or more of the embodiments illustrated in Figures 72 through ⁸¹~~90~~ include the following: (1) Combined Rotational and Functional Ballast attached to Life Jacket; (2) Ballast that is comprised in total or part by power supply means; (3) Ballast that is comprised in total or part by signaling, illumination or appliance means; (4) Ballast that is comprised in total or in part by containment means; (5) Ballast that is comprised in total or in part by high density component to offset buoyant functional components; (6) Ballast that is comprised in total or in part by neutral or negative packing fluid/gel; (7) Ballast that is comprised in total or in part by high density stiffener/attachment means complementing functional ballast means; (8) Fixed

FIG. 22. 10. 15. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. 31. 32. 33. 34. 35. 36. 37. 38. 39. 40. 41. 42. 43. 44. 45. 46. 47. 48. 49. 50. 51. 52. 53. 54. 55. 56. 57. 58. 59. 60. 61. 62. 63. 64. 65. 66. 67. 68. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73. 74. 75. 76. 77. 78. 79. 80. 81. 82. 83. 84. 85. 86. 87. 88. 89. 90. 91. 92. 93. 94. 95. 96. 97. 98. 99. 100. 101. 102. 103. 104. 105. 106. 107. 108. 109. 110. 111. 112. 113. 114. 115. 116. 117. 118. 119. 120. 121. 122. 123. 124. 125. 126. 127. 128. 129. 130. 131. 132. 133. 134. 135. 136. 137. 138. 139. 140. 141. 142. 143. 144. 145. 146. 147. 148. 149. 150. 151. 152. 153. 154. 155. 156. 157. 158. 159. 160. 161. 162. 163. 164. 165. 166. 167. 168. 169. 170. 171. 172. 173. 174. 175. 176. 177. 178. 179. 180. 181. 182. 183. 184. 185. 186. 187. 188. 189. 190. 191. 192. 193. 194. 195. 196. 197. 198. 199. 200. 201. 202. 203. 204. 205. 206. 207. 208. 209. 210. 211. 212. 213. 214. 215. 216. 217. 218. 219. 220. 221. 222. 223. 224. 225. 226. 227. 228. 229. 230. 231. 232. 233. 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